

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

The House returns from a long week-end of meeting with constituents as our Nation continues to process the impact of dramatic explosions in Boston and Texas.

Concerns about budget, taxes, immigration, gun violence, among others, reveal the considerable divisions both in Congress and among the American populace as well.

As opinions and emotions surge loudly and with little indication of easy solution, we take this quiet moment to ask Your blessing upon the Members of this people's House.

Give each Member peace and quiet discernment to work toward common solutions that might ease our divisions and open the way to new hope and confidence that we as a Nation will continue to shine as an example for all the world to emulate.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MCCOLLUM led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ADMINISTRATION'S SEQUESTER IMPLEMENTATION IS SHAMEFUL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, the Federal Aviation Administration began furloughing air traffic controllers due to the President's sequestration. As a result, American families are set to experience longer security lines, flight delays, and more hardships while traveling.

Yesterday, the White House Press Secretary placed politics over leadership by blaming Congress. Last year, to address the issue, the House acted responsibly by passing two pieces of legislation to replace sequestration. Sadly, the Senate refused to consider our efforts, and the President vowed to veto them.

Once again, the President and his administration chose to act selfishly for political gain by cutting the resources for American passengers rather than reducing costs elsewhere and minimizing sequestration's impact. American families deserve real leadership. The President must start prioritizing the well-being of the American people over petty partisan politics.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

SEQUESTRATION

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Congress should have never passed sequestration.

These reckless cuts are affecting families and communities throughout our Nation and in Indian Country. When sequestration was passed, no one thought about how it would disproportionately impact tribal communities. Our Federal Government is failing in its obligation to tribal communities, and sequester has made the problem worse.

Right now, in Minnesota, Native American children are losing tutoring services and access to school counselors because of cuts to Impact Aid. Families that receive health care from the Indian Health Service are not protected from sequestration. The health and, in some cases, even the lives of tribal members are in danger.

This week, the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee will hear from tribal leaders. We will hear how Congress has an obligation and an opportunity to correct this wrong, and Congress must take action.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION DELAYS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the President's Federal Aviation Administration could use a little help. Faced with the task of trimming its budget only 5 percent—basically, just returning to 2010 spending levels—it has decided to

furlough employees and cause flight delays.

How can this be their only option when the FAA's budget has grown almost 110 percent over the past 15 years?

Rather than inflicting unnecessary pain on the American people, President Obama and his FAA should be cutting waste. Within the FAA's budget, there are \$2.7 billion in nonpersonnel costs that should be scrutinized before the President or his Transportation Secretary cry "doomsday" or "delay." Examples include 500 million taxpayer dollars spent by the FAA on consultants, \$143 million on operation costs for the FAA's 46 aircraft, and \$200 million on supplies and travel.

The President's FAA officials have the discretion to reduce such excess and apply savings to the essentials. They should stop punishing the American people with flight delays or threats of shuttered air traffic towers and compromised safety and use the power they have to cut taxpayer-funded waste first.

GOP MUST APPOINT BUDGET CONFEREES

(Mr. POCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POCAN. Congress is now more than 1 week past our legal deadline to produce a final budget for the American people, but this is not due to a lack of activity by either Chamber. In fact, the House has passed a budget, and the Senate has passed a budget; yet there is no movement toward creating a final national budget.

Why? Because Republicans in both the House and the Senate refuse to appoint budget conferees.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Wisconsin and the Nation deserve a Federal budget that reflects our values and that lays out our priorities just like we do in Wisconsin and other States. Without a budget, we cannot respond to emerging needs or cut wasteful programs, and we cannot replace the irresponsible sequester cuts that are hitting our families and communities.

This is unacceptable and it is unnecessary. I am a member of the Budget Committee, and I do not agree with most of what was included in the budget that our committee passed, but I do believe we need to sit down with the Senate and, in an open, transparent process, come to a budget solution.

There is no excuse for inaction. Republicans should immediately appoint budget conferees so we can produce a budget that promotes economic growth and supports our middle class families.

OBAMACARE'S BROKEN PROMISES

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)